



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)

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MONTHLY MEETINGS: Fourth Friday in each month at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 28th 1978.

A REMINDER! Our August meeting is being replaced by **LADIES' NIGHT**, being held on Friday August 25th at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

GET WELL WISH FOR OUR PRESIDENT

For those who have not yet heard, we regret to report that on May 28th last President Harry suffered a stroke which affected his left side. After sojourns in Mosman Community and Royal North Shore Hospitals he has now been transferred to a Convalescent Hospital at Greenwich. To-day's news from Marge is that Harry has made good progress. Good Luck from us all Harry!

Just prior to his illness, Harry wrote the following:

"Marge and I were on holidays when the death of Sir Robert Menzies was announced. In the following days, with tributes pouring in from all over Australia and the World, I was reminded of the last occasion I had lunch with our Patron, Sir Ivan, and the late Tim Fearnside. Our conversation covered a wide range of subjects, during which Sir Ivan recalled our then Prime Minister's visit to the 6th Division A.I.F. in the Middle East in 1941. The Division had just inflicted the first major defeat on the enemy of World War 2 with the capture of Libya and the defeat of the Italians from Bardia to Benghazi. On his arrival in the Middle East, Mr. Menzies was met by a number of V.I.P's including the G.O.C. British Forces in the Middle East, General

'Jumbo' Maitland-Wilson. Enquiring after the Australian troops Mr. Menzies was told by General Wilson 'They are very troublesome you know' to which Mr. Menzies replied 'Yes, I believe the Italians are finding them VERY troublesome.'

'Of all the photographic tributes of events throughout Sir Robert's lifetime, the only one related to his visit to 6th Aust.Div. A.I.F. in the Middle East early in 1941 was reproduced in the 'Newcastle Morning Herald' on May 16th, 1978. This photo shows Mr. Menzies shaking hands with Capt. Max Rungie 'D' Coy. with the C.O., Lieut. Col. I.N. Dougherty, looking on, and was taken during Mr. Menzies' visit to our Battalion in Benghazi on Feb. 11th, 1941. Thanks to Jim Sherritt and 'Bookie' Rae, and by courtesy of the Newcastle Morning Herald, we are able to reproduce this photo in this issue of W.O.G.

'Marge and I spent an all too short holiday at Lake Macquarie and were subjected to the overwhelming hospitality of Vice-President Alf Carpenter and the Newcastle team. Thanks to Alf, Jim and Mona Sherritt, George & Heather Mitchell, Cliff & Aileen Curran 'Bookie' and Margaret Rae, Bill White, and Jim and Mona's daughter Topsy and Son-in-law Bill Burgess, we really had a most wonderful holiday and are most appreciative of the trouble they went to to make sure that we did. I can tell you now that it is definitely 'Newcastle in '79' for our Country Reunion, and Alf and the boys are currently planning to

ensure that it will be a winner.

'I contacted 'Bully' Hayes and although he is far from well he is intent on being 'on parade' at Lismore in October. 'Bully' sends his best wishes to all, and if you would like to contact him his address is: 51 Spark Street, Georgetown, phone Newcastle 683583. He is very appreciative of the recent visit of 'Slim' Pollock and Ron Barber.

'I would like to add my congratulations to those extended to John Copland for his award of Life Membership of Ryde Sub-Branch R.S.L. John a past President of our Association, Committee member for many years and dedicated welfare officer, obviously gives the same dedicated service to his sub-branch, who, like us, have recognised his services with the award of Life Member. Congratulations, John!

'I thought I had reached the stage in life when nothing can surprise me any more, but I obviously haven't. The occasion? To have Russ McWilliam walk in on me, without warning, on Friday May 12th. Russ had come down from Melville Island to attend a family wedding at Tamworth. In the short time available between aircraft, we managed to span a lot of years, news, and copious quantities of frothy fluid'. He looks and is fighting fit and sends best wishes to all, and is looking forward to renewing acquaintances at Lismore.

'I have completed the ground work relative to the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Medal with Bars and will give you all the necessary information in the near future.

'Good luck and good health to you all.

Harry Gjedsted.'



WELFARE REPORT to June 23rd, 1978.

- NX 5838 OGILVIE, Colin. R.G.H.17; Colin has shown a slight improvement as far as his legs are concerned, but has a chest infection. Still full of beans as usual
- NX 57 WAUGH, R. R.G.H.110. Was in for a couple of days but had just been discharged when George Stack called.
- NX 18572 BURGIS, W. R.G.H.310. Now back home in Bellingen complete with pace-maker. Good luck, Bill!
- NX 5890 CARTER Leo. R.G.H.410. Was in for spinal treatment, but now discharged.
- NX 53929 GRAHAM, J.P. After several trips to Gloucester House, Jim now home. He hopes to make to-night's meeting.
- WX 1907 WALSH, J.P. R.G.H. 8. Of Albion Street, Sydney. In with a lung ailment. Discharged.
- NX 20648 BENNETT W.A. Also known in the Battalion as FAGAN 'C'Coy. Bronchitis, discharged.
- NX 5294 ROBERTS, Henry A. R.G.H.17. 'H.Q.'Coy. of Wentworth-

ville. In for physiotherapy and heart condition. Making good progress.

- NX 9868 RAYMONT, Ronald. R.G.H.530. Discharged.
- NX 11564 DEVEY, Stanley P. R.G.H. 610 Heart condition Joined the Battalion at Kilo 89, now lives at 16 Delves St. Mortdale. Stan gave Bill Parry his subs. to join the Association. Welcome, Stan.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, Athol. W.V.H.Narrabeen Doing well, sends regards to all through Bill Parry, who hopes to bring him to the Church Parade on Sunday next, June 25th.

W.W.1 4 Bn.

- 1812 RIDER, Edwin. R.G.H.110. General Check-up. A very happy 84.
- 2778 McMILLAN, Angus, R.G.H. 19. Blind and with a heart condition.
- 2057 CARROL, John. R.G.H. 510 Chest Complaint.

WILLCHAMS, Mrs. Olive. Expects discharge from Coorabel tomorrow, June 24th, and after a week with daug. Jennie, to return to Leeton.

WALSH, Mrs. Vera. Had a short spell in R.G.H. for a minor throat ailment. Now home again and full of beans.

On behalf of all our visitorsJohn Copland

LAST POST NX 6902 HOWE L.C., better known and esteemed among 2/4th members as 'Bully' attended his last great parade on May 10th at precisely 11 p.m. when his comrades laid his mortal remains to rest in the Temora Cemetery. 'Bully' passed from this veil of blood, sweat and tears on May 8th following a stroke which was complicated by a brain tumour, a tumour on the lung and finally pneumonia. Apart from his loving wife and family, he was faithfully supported by fellow ex-P.O.W. 'King' Coles, who was never far from 'Bully' throughout his turbulent years.

Few men could have born the same cruel twists of fate with the same courage as 'Bully', and yet in so many respects he was singularly blessed. Not only did he hold a place in the hearts of his comrades which was reserved for only the very selected few, but fate took him deep into the heart of wartorn Austria, where he met his lovely Rosa.

'He returned briefly to Australia at the end of the war, but returned to England and worked on a farm while he waited for Rosa to make her way through war ravaged Europe to join him in England. Rosa arrived at their rendezvous safely with a special letter of citation from the G.O.C. Allied High Command, General Alexander, for outstanding service to Allied P.O.W.s during those dangerous years.

Following their marriage in England, they returned to Australia and to 'Bully's' hometown of Temora, where their marriage was blessed by two lovely daughters and two fine sons. That the church was filled to overflowing by people generally, and by R.S.L. members particularly, bears witness to the special place the entire family fills in the community of Temora. We know Rosa understands the hallowed place 'Bully' occupies in the hearts of his comrades.

We only hope that his children and his children's children will grow to understand the special qualities which made this man so special among all those who lived and fought with him, and in so many cases died beside him.

George Coles (who served with 'Bully' through all the theatres of war, and through all the P.O.W. camps of Europe and who knew

Rosa well in those far-off days in Austria) was supported by ex-P.O.W. Bruce Millard, Arthur Harradine and Tim West, and also by Arthur Kleem, Wal Taylor and Joe Wells at the Church and graveside. Apart from his mates of the 2/4th, we feel 'Bully' and Rosa will be well remembered by one of the finest R.S.L. Branches in the land in that fine western town of Temora.....Tim West.

ASSOCIATION OF 4TH INF. BATTALIONS ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE 1978.

This parade and service was held on Sunday, June 25th, at St. Anne's Church, Strathfield, the 2/4th Bn. being represented by about 14 members and their families - happily a better showing than on the last two occasions.

It was a fairly good day, cold but fine, and I made sure our banner was on parade this year. It was carried by a couple of C.M.F. troops and the parade was led by the 4 Bn. C.M.F. Band. It's wonderful what the beat of a drum does to one's feet! One thing I miss at the church these days is the parading of the Queen's and Regimental Colours, which cannot be done because of the aged and fragile condition they are in.

Those in attendance from the 2/4th included Sir Ivan Dougherty Ron Barber, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Bill & Mrs. Sheaffe, Laurie Waterhouse, Harold and Del Silver, Bill & Gwen MacLennan, Bill and Mrs. Luck (with Bill Agland from Orange - a 4 Bn. member), Wal and Mrs. Honey, Frank and Mrs. Gattenhof, Vera Walsh, Mollie Irvine and myself. Apologies were received from Harry Gjedsted and John Copland, both on the sick list.

Bill Parry.

COUNTRY RE-UNION - 1978 - LISMORE

Allan Kirk has advised the preliminary arrangements for Saturday Sept. 30 and Sunday October 1st at Lismore R.S.L. Book in as usual at the Club. For dinner on Sat. night, the auditorium will be exclusive to 2/4th and an orchestra provided. There will be a Bar-B-Q lunch at the Club on Sunday after a scenic tour, and after lunch a concert has been arranged by the Club for 2/4th members only. On Sunday night a smorgasbord will be provided, and probably some music, when once more the auditorium will be for the exclusive use of the 2/4th so you can see - as Allan comments - the R.S.L. is being very co-operative. Please then, show your appreciation by giving our Lismore committee every co-operation and sending your bookings with deposits early.....that means NOW!!! Allan's address 179 Dibbs Street, LISMORE 2480

NEWS FROM OUR NORTHERN N.S.W. V.P.:

At Easter saw Joan Chaseling in Kyogle - just returned from Butterworth (Malaysia) where her daughter is living. Joan is quite well.

Was in Kempsey Railway yard at the end of March when a voice hailed me - it was Ian Wallwork just returning from Sydney show. He was looking after some prize cattle for a friend of his.

Early in April Harry Dowling had a surprise visit from Mel McGuinness from Lismore and they were delayed for some time at the local R.S.L. Club.

Chas Hood had an operation in April - fortunately quite a successful one.

Tiny Eglington, the Cane-growers' State President, played a large part in the recent purchase of the North Coast Sugar Mills by a Farmers' Co-operative from the C.S.R.

Had a nice newsy letter a couple of days ago from Vera Provians, she says Tom and herself are well. Vera is acting as Voluntary Secretary for the Lismore re-union.

Haven't had any news from Macksville or Bowraville of late, but

understand the boys and girls are O.K. All the local boys are going O.K. I see Tom Malcolm (an early member of the Bn.) fairly often. Cheers for the present.....Esca Riordan.

NEWCASTLE NEWS

The Newcastle members of our Association held their May get together at Gallipoli Legion Club at Hamilton on Friday night of the 18th. Our President Harry with Marj who were holidaying at Lake Macquarie attended our get together and their presence certainly made for a great evening. Harry filled us in with all the latest doings from Sydney. Several other small get togethers were arranged before Harry and Marj returned to the city.

Bill (Bully) Hayes still not well and confined mainly to his home. Got a great lift when Harry phoned him. Bully also reported receiving a letter from Dasher Deacon - much appreciated and thanks for the kind thoughts.....Regards. Jim Sherritt.

Just a bit of news from our last get together at Merewether R.S.L. on Friday June 23rd. Attendance was down a bit. Our news scribe, Jim Sherritt, was ill in bed with the wog, hence me writing up the meeting for him.

My wife Marge did the right thing with the pokies and reimbursed the refreshment funds for me.

It looks like a good 'roll-up' for Lismore from the Newcastle boys. Cliff and Aileen Curran have booked. Alf & Marge's booking is in the mail. George & Heather Mitchell, Harry & Yvonne Pearse, 'Bookie' and Margaret Rae, Bill White, Jim & Mona Sherritt and Joe and Gwen Bohle are amongst those who have indicated they will be in attendance. It's wonderful the support that reunions receive.

We discussed Newcastle as the venue for our 1979 reunion and at this early stage enquiries are under way - if we are selected as hosts for this all important occasion. Should have some concrete facts well in advance of Lismore to put before our reunion there.

All our prayers and best wishes go out to Harry for a speedy and full recovery from all at Newcastle. We did appreciate his and Marge's attendance at our May meeting at the Gallipoli Legion Club.

Best regards to all. Alf Carpenter.

NEWS FROM OUR VICTORIAN V.P.

I'd be glad if you would change my phone number to 354 1145 when next you alter the heading of W.O.G. They've changed all the numbers to seven figures down here now. (It will be done Claude...Ed.)

Ref. Lismore. Nan and I will be going to the reunion, and I'm endeavouring to get Dick Parry, Leo Dunn and Bill Panter to also make it with their wives. Hugh Burgdorf and Vic Eason are sure starters too. It's a long way for the Victorians but many others will try to make the trip to meet up with their old mates.

Was glad to send Life Membership fees for Peter Gyngell of 19 Orrong Grove, Caulfield. If you recall, Peter was a Lieut in 'B' and 'A' Coys., serving in N.G. He graduated from R.M.C. Duntroon in Dec. 1943, then joined the 2/4th.

Ernie Mackey of 122 Para Rd., Montmorency, has also joined the Association. Ernie has only recently surfaced, living in Melbourne for the last 13 years without contacting any of us. He was captured in Crete. He joined 2/4th at Burg-el-Arab and drove the Sigs. stores truck. After the war he joined the P.M.F. and retired last year, with no contact of any 2/4th mates until he met up with us for ANZAC reunion here this year. It's great he has met some of his old mates at last.

Many regards to all the team in Sydney.

Claude Raymond.

ANOTHER WILLING WELFARE WORKER

Bob Lever of Glenbrook has volunteered to do hospital and sick visitations on behalf of the Association in the lower Blue Mountains area. Bob's phone number is 047 394835. Thank you, Bob!

LADIES NIGHT. Please check the front page of this issue and your June W.O.G. for details of this year's Ladies Night — and here they are again.

FRIDAY NIGHT, August 25th at 8 p.m. at Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney. A modest entry fee will be charged to cover the cost of supper and Dick Pinson's famous band!

CASH REGISTER The Treasurer advises having received subs. and/or donation from the following members and supporters.
\$5 E.H.Mackey.

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$6 - J.Barrow, M.Coy, P.Lane, C.Gillard, G. Mitchell, C.Powers, S.P.Devey, F.Apthorp, J.Ormiston, K.Kesteven, J.Meehen, J. McKinley, S. McGillivray, A.Gabriel, J. Naseby, B.Cork, D.Boyd, W.Walker, J. Eastham, H.Russell, R.Davis, R.Widdop, W. Mitchell, K.Watt, S.Doggett, L. Jones, E.Richards, D. Crosssthaite, P.Armstrong, A.Honnelly, R.Williams, J.Sadler, W.Facey, J. Whittaker, J.Heaney, K.Webb, E.Wood, N.Everson, A. Gibson, G.Moore, A. Manning, R. Perram, C.McCosker, M.McGregor, J.Graham, T. Swadling, M. Steele, J. Forman, C. Cameron, T.Harris, G.Ings, J.Dubber, J. Morgan, W. Eslick, L.Bloomfield, E. Swain, E. Hopkins, K. Richardson, C.Scully, K.McIntosh, K.King, J.Dooley, K.Venn, H.McLaughlin, M.O'Regan, C.Newell, H. Nichols, W.Shaw, H. Pearse, J.Rae, L.Clarke, L.Hammond, D.Rodda, L. Stonach, T. Watson, A.Dick J. Naseby, F. Gattenhof, T. Fordham, R. Windeyer, C. Davies, R. Andrews, N. Johnstone, H. Williams, I.Pollock, E. Graham, K. Deacon. **\$12** W. MacKenzie P.Lahey, H.Greedy **\$18** - T. Brennan **\$20** J. MacBrown, **\$25** J. Lister.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50 - F. Crutchett, W. Black, R.Robberds, P. Gyngell.

ADDITIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$20 - W. Andrews, A. Kirk, R. Fergusson, C. Curran R. Carter, W. Lambourne, Dr.Hodgkinson, J.Brown, M. Gray, H.Elliott, T. Gorman, J. Sherritt, P.Hill, A. Powell, F. Wallace, A.Carpenter, W. Cosier, J. Pearce **\$10** - J.Huston, E.Jackson.

DONATIONS \$4 - J. Barrow, M.Coy, P.Lane, C. Gillard, J.Meehan, R.Davis, A. Gabriel, L. Jones, D.Crossthaite, P.Armstrong, A. Gibson, R.Perram, T.Harris, G. Ings, E.Swain, F.Gattenhof, R.Andrews, N. Johnstone **\$5** E. Wilson, P.Betts, Dot Pike, W.Honey, M.Makin **\$6** N.Everson. **\$7** J. Naseby **\$8** - H.Greedy. **\$10** J Ormiston, H Gjedsted, A Lindsay Shirley Faulder, M.Overs A.Gorman, W. Lambourne, W. Mitchell, E.Riordan, J. Mann, K.Moses, J. Copland, J. Sherritt, P.Cade, S. Sutherland, Mrs. A. Reynolds, G.Chrisp, L. Bloomfield, R. Stennett, D.Grove, C.Hood, R.Andrews, W. MacKenzie **\$15** - F. Mallett **\$20** - F. Wallace, M.Avis Humphries, T. Gorman, H & D Silver, A. Powell, G.Chrisp **\$30** B.McAtamney, P. Hill, Mary Staples **\$45** W. Black. **\$50** W. MacLennan.

Members will be pleased to know that the recent raffle grossed \$1411. The President and members of the Committee wish to thank the members of the Association for the magnificent manner in which they responded to our recent appeal for financial support.

As can be seen the response was almost overwhelming. The proceeds will be invested and the income from same applied to current expenses, amongst which the cost of White Over Green figures prominently. It may be of some interest to members to know that our current financial membership is 488 - Sydney Metropolitan

area 208, N.S.W.Country 204, Interstate 73, and Overseas 3. Since your present Treasurer has been maintaining his records, the Association membership peaked in 1972 with a total of 602, with the proportions - city to country being roughly the same

Allen Lindsay, Hon. Treasurer.

MORE ABOUT LISMORE

A late message from Allan Kirk via Fred Varley stresses Allan's concern at the tardiness of many North Coasters in declaring their intentions of attending the Lismore re-union. So get to it you blokes of the Tweed, Richmond and Clarence Rivers areas. This also applies to regulars in all areas who have not yet booked. as 'last-minute' runners could pose a very definite problem.

A MEMBER SPEAKS OUT The following is a letter published in the Feb. 6th issue of 'National Times' in the 'Letters to the Editor' page. We think it is an appropriate and complete answer to oft repeated, inaccurate and ill-informed criticism of the Fighting of the Sixth Division.....

'Sir, I was ashore in Aden with the first Australian and New Zealand troops to be given brief leave there in Early Feb. 1941. You Quote (National Times, Jan.30th) the American Vic-consul Robert T. Cowan, on the looting of shops and bars and lack of discipline among the men generally. There was some looting and damage done to bars, most of it brought about by the bare-faced robbery of the men by local traders, mainly Syrian and Indian.

'The trouble was actually started by New Zealand troops, and the general impression was that they were out to show the Australians just how tough they were. Once it was on, of course, many Australians took part, but at no time could it have been described as a serious soldier riot, and all men were back on their transports by dusk. The great majority had been onlookers in any case.

'The Vice Consul's comments on the physical standards and low mentality of the men will surprise older Sydney citizens, who saw the 16th Brigade march through their streets only five weeks before, in the first — and one of the great — military parades of World War 11. None of them were 'stoop-shouldered, underfed, some lame or crippled, and many of them with grey hair', as the Vice-consul reported from Asia. They were a fit body of splendid men, even though a small percentage had been on the miserable dole at the tail end of the Great Depression when they enlisted. Being unemployed had nothing to do with the physical standards demanded on enlistment.

'As for the Vice-consul's allegations of the anti English feeling on the transports, only a few nights later very few Senior Ship's Officers of the flood lit 'Strathnaver' were not visibly moved as the 2/4th Battalion — and other Australian troops — disembarked at Kantara on the Canal. Indeed, some of the stewards with World War 1 ribbons wept openly as they saw the men go to their trains. Palestine bound. I witnessed all this personally, and have never forgotten it.

'The politicians can look after themselves, but I for one deplore the retailing of 38 year old gutter gossip from insignificant Americans about the men of the 6th and 8th Divisions of the Second A.I.F., too few of whom are left to defend their good name.

Ian Fitchett, Curtin, A.C.T.'

(NX 4072, ex 2/4th Battalion).....Well said, Ian!

OFFICIAL REVISIT TO KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES

The R.S.L. and Korea and S.E.Asia Forces Assn. have planned an 11-day revisit to Korea and the Philippines, departing from Sydney on Thursday, September 28th 1978 and available to all ex-servicemen and women serving personnel their families and friends, the cost-inclusive of air fares, bed & breakfast accommodation and all tours arranged - approx. \$1,100. Anyone interested - contact 90 7110